

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
1420 E 6th Ave, PO Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701
(406) 444-2452

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

PART 1. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of Proposed Action: Range Improvements

2. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action: MCA87-1-276 through 87-1-279 (Legislative established policies and procedures for the establishment and improvement of shooting ranges) MCA87-2-105 (Departmental authority to expend funds to provide training in the safe handling and use of firearms and safe hunting practices)

3. Project Title: Manhattan Wildlife Association (MWA)

P.O. Box 814

Bozeman, MT 59771

4. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor:

Gary L. Reed

4320 McIlhattan Road

Bozeman, MT 59715

Resolution Date: June 28, 2005

5. Cooperating Agencies, User Groups and/or Supporting Groups:

FWP- Hunter Education Program, 4-H Club, Gallatin County Sheriff's Dept., Montana Highway Patrol, Belgrade Police Dept., Manhattan Police Dept., Three Forks Police Dept., NRA Concealed Carry Classes, and R-3 Game Wardens.

6. Location Affected by Proposed Action:

Approximately 118.216 acres in Gallatin County Montana owned by the Manhattan Wildlife Association. NE 1/4, SE 1/4, SW 1/4, and NW 1/4 of Sec. 26, and in the NE 1/4 of Section

35, Township 2 North, Range 2 East P.M.M.

7. Project Size: Approximately one acre on the =118 acre tract of the exiting range complex.

8. Map:

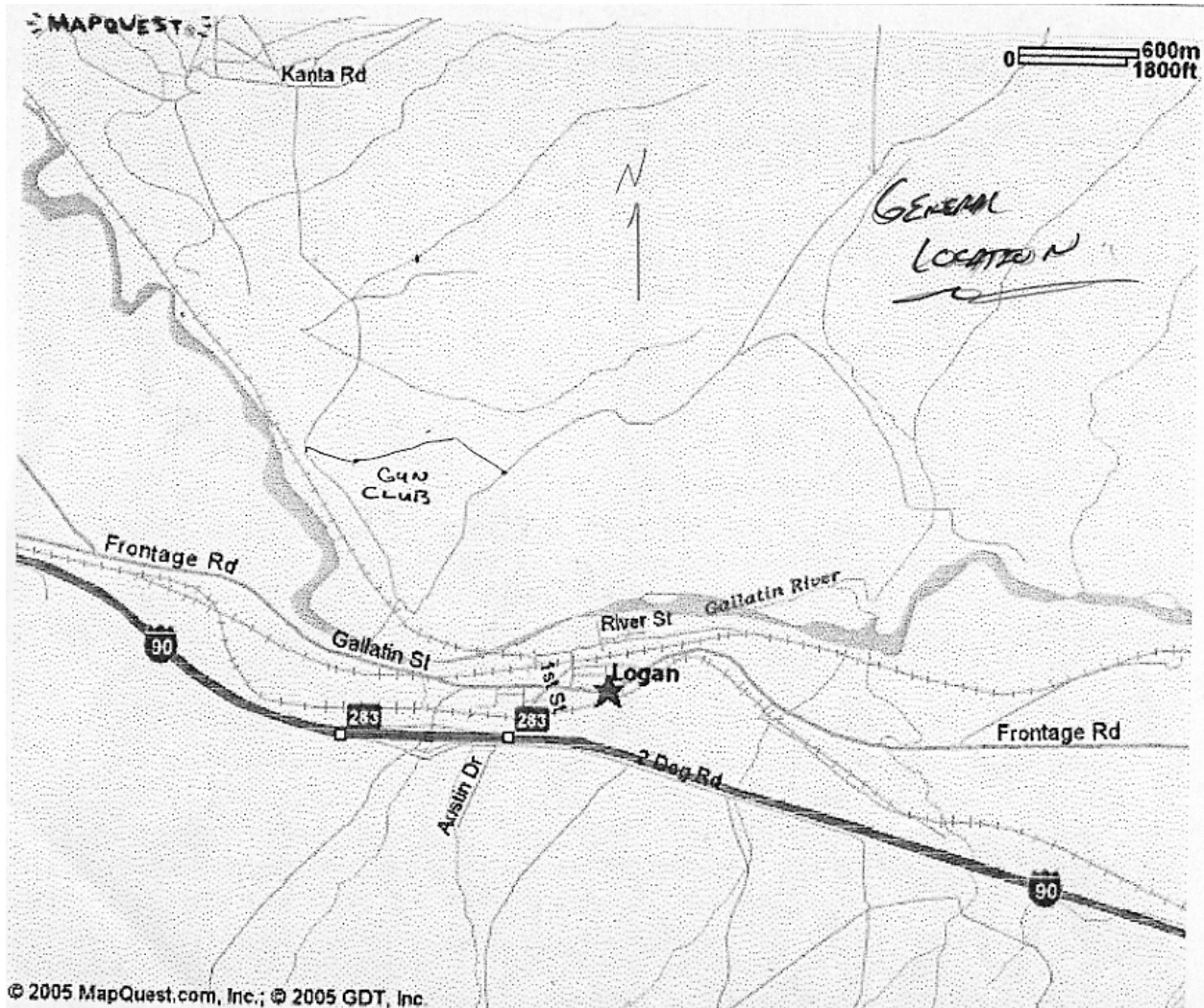


Figure 1 - Manhattan Wildlife Association Shooting Complex/Gun Club Northwest of Logan, MT



Figure 2 – 1995 Aerial Photo of Range (Upper Lest)

9. Description of Project:

The area of current project is less than one acre.

Improvements to complete new skeet field:

- (a) Electric Wiring - Trenching for cables from the skeet housed to a post behind station 4 and bringing required power to the new field.
- (b) Concrete Work – New walkways meeting handicapped guidelines (4ft wide) will be installed on the skeet field allowing wheelchair shooters to easily navigate all 8 shooting stations, plus walkway to connect to lower shooting complex.
- (c) 4 new Trap Machines – Four new skeet/trap machines. Two machines designated for new skeet field and two machines to replace older machines on older field(s).
- (d) Coin/token machines – Installation of machines will allow automated shooter access to targets and skeet/trap fields without requiring MWA volunteer staff, allowing more access to ranges.

All projects to be completed by June 30, 2006.

10. Listing of any Other Local, State, or Federal Agency that has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:

(a) Permits:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
	None	

(b) Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
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Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

\$16,450

(Does not include a 50/50 match from the MWA).

11. List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

PART 2. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		X
3. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		X
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectionable odors				X		
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

2. & 5. There are no live streams, irrigation ditches or ponds on the site. No delineated wetlands.

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment .

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				X		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				X		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural production				X		X
5. Human health				X		X
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				X		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				X		X
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				X		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

4. The site is located at the edge of an agricultural area primarily utilized for grazing. Site has been a shooting range for many years and not agricultural activities are disrupted nor intended in the future for the range area.

5. Range site plans, construction and the ongoing operational and maintenance plans meet the National Rifle Association and Montana Skeet Shooting Association standards for safety of the range participants and the public at large. A very comprehensive safety plan and well posted safety guidelines are in evidence throughout the range complex.

7. Range will provide year round access and handicapped accessibility. Cooperating organizations

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

are aware of the improved range options and the has a long history or cooperation with hunter education classes, 4-H, Sheriff's Department, Game Wardens, local police departments and other law enforcement & youth groups for training and instructional facilities. Range is open to the public during normal operating times and is handicapped accessible.

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur? NO

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant? This proposed action has no impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant. Cumulative impacts have been assessed considering any incremental impact of the proposed action when they are combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and no significant impacts or substantially controversial issues were found. There are no extreme hazards created with this project and there are no conflicts with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented: Only the proposed alternative and the no action alternative were considered. There were no other alternatives that were deemed reasonably available, nor prudent. Neither the proposed alternative nor the no action alternative would have any significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences. There are beneficial consequences to Acceptance of the proposed alternative (construction of the ranges), such as increased recreational opportunities , and increased handicap access. The no action alternative would be not to make improvements on the skeet range and continue on with present activities. Land use would remain the same. Present activities also include occasional shooting activities on existing or other temporary ranges. However, entire range would not be handicap accessible and may not meet standards for holding state sanctioned skeet shoots with the Montana Skeet Shooting Association, such as for the proposed alternative, which is the prudent alternative.

List proposed mitigative measures (stipulations): NONE

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:

Gary Reed, MWA Board Member

Tim Nagel, MWA Skeet Committee Member

Narrative Evaluation and Comment:

All of the pertinent or potential impacts of the project have been reviewed, discussed, and analyzed. Due to the minor nature and insignificant effects of the proposed action, this should be considered the final version of

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the environmental assessment. There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative. The long history of a strong working relationship that MWA has with hunter education, youth groups and local law enforcement all support the approval of the proposed alternative. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should approve the proposed alternative for the improvements of the skeet range(s) of the Manhattan Wildlife Association.

EA prepared by: GENE R. HICKMAN
Ecological Assessments
Helena, MT 59602

Date Completed: August 26, 2005

PART 3. DECISION

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:

None required.

Describe public involvement, if any: None

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- ** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).
- *** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- **** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.